Voting of Demands for Grants—*(cont.)*
24. Public Health—Rs. 1,40,368.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I move for an allotment of Rs. 1,40,368 for Public Health. I have generally touched on this subject and I do not wish to say anything at present. There are a number of cut motions under this head, and as the hon'ble members move them, I may have a chance to explain the various points raised. I do not now propose to make any remarks on this subject.

Cut Motion No. 1.
The need for removing the mosquito nuisance in the State.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,130 for Sanitation works proper Kunnamkulam Improvement Scheme by Re. 1. (To discuss the need for removing the mosquito nuisance in the State and for investigating into the unprecedented menace of mosquitoes in the Villages around Mulanthuruthi in the months of Meenam and Medam last.)*

I do not think, Sir, that either facts or figures are necessary to support my statement, that the mosquito nuisance in the State is very great especially in the littoral tracts of the State. I am gratified to find, from a reply to a question of my hon'ble friend, Mr. Moothedan, that the Government has recognised the vastness of the nuisance and that some steps have been taken by the Government in this matter. While we are thankful to the Government for the steps already taken, I wish to impress upon the Government the necessity of making more efforts in that direction. It is also brought to our notice now by the answer from the Government that a particular type of mosquitoes, the stegomyia variety, exist in great numbers in the State. We are obliged to the Government for the survey, and for the information supplied to us. The Government have further remarked that it is a very harmful kind of mosquito, transmitting, as they do, a very dangerous disease—the yellow fever—the very name of that fever is enough to make us all shudder with the dreadful possibilities.

Then there is also another variety of mosquitoes which carry malaria. I am only a layman and I cannot go into the correctness of the theory—theorists say that even filarial fever is caused by mosquitoes. I do not know whether any other kind of disease is caused by mosquitoes. But the fact remains that this nuisance has to be eradicated at any cost. Those people who live in Ernakulam and Mattancheri and those living in the littoral tracts know how impossible it is for people to sleep. It is not possible for everybody to get mosquito nets. In some parts of the year, unless you have got electric fans, it will be impossible to sleep within mosquito curtains.

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